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TELEGRAM

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87/82
ACTION ARA-11

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-06 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
PM-03 DODE-00 SY-01 AID-12 L-02 O-03 PRS-01 SSO-00
CCO-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /072 W
105495

O P 061740Z AUG 70
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8055
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
USCINCSO/CANAL ZONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1593

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT GARBLED TEXT THROUGHOUT)

BOGOTA FOR MEYER

CINCSO FOR POLAD

LIMDIS

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 5/16/77
PER FDaume OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 630373 Rayfaldt

SUBJECT: MITRIONE KIDNAPPING

REF: STATE 125607

1. I THOUGHT IT WISE TO INFORM FOREIGN OFFICE THAT PAPAL NUNCIO HAD ASKED TO SEE ME THIS MORNING (AUGUST 6) AND SENT EMBOFF THERE AS I DEPARTED FOR NUNCIO'S OFFICE. (SEE SEPTEL)

2. EMBOFF EXPLAINED TO FONMINISTER PEIRANO THAT NUNCIO HAD

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Sue DATE 4-12-82
DOWNGRADED/DECLASSIFIED DATE
AUTH. REASON(S)
EXCISION EXISTING MARKINGS
UNCLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
FOIA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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ASKED TO SEE ME AND THAT WE HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT SUBJECT NUNCIO WANTED TO TAKE UP. HOWEVER, I DID NOT WISH FONMIN TO THINK THAT I HAD SOUGHT OUT NUNCIO FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE. FONMIN EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THIS INFORMATION, AND SAID THAT NUNCIO'S REQUEST CAUSED HIM NO RPT NO PROBLEM. HE THOUGHT NUNCIO WOULD MERELY WISH USG VIEWS ON LATEST MLN NOTE OR POSSIBLY WANTED TO DISCUSS SPECIAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR DIPLOMATS WHO SEEM MOST VULNERABLE TO ASSAULT.

3. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT I WISHED TO CALL ON FONMIN AT HIS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE FOLLOWING MY TALK WITH NUNCIO. FONMIN INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SEE ME IMMEDIATELY AFTER LUNCH TODAY.

4. FURTHER TO PEIRANO'S TELEPHONE CALL LAST EVENING REGARDING SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS I HAD PUT TO HIM PER REF DEPTEL, HE SAID THAT INTERIOR MINISTRY IS NOW PREPARING TO MAKE KNOWN GOU OFFER OF ONE MILLION PESOS FOR EACH PIECE OF GOOD INFORMATION VOLUNTEERED BY CITIZENS. (THIS NOW ANNOUNCED BY GOU) HE ALSO TOLD EMBASSY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR NOW ENGAGED IN SETTING UP SYSTEM WHEREBY ORDINARY CITIZENS WHO WISHED TO VOLUNTEER INFORMATION WOULD NOT HAVE TO CALL POLICE HEADQUARTERS DIRECTLY. PEIRANO SAID THAT EVIDENTLY SOME PEOPLE BELIEVED POLICE INFILTRATED BY TERRORISTS AND ARE AFRAID TO CALL HEADQUARTERS. INTERIOR SUBSECRETARYPIRAN NOW WORKING WITH FONMINISTRY SUBSECRETARY RICALDONI TO SET UP SUCH "CITIZENS INFORMATION CENTER" AND PEIRANO TOLD EMBOFF THAT WE SHOULD BE IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH PIRAN TO GIVE HIM WHATEVER ADVICE AND HELP WE COULD. REGARDING MY SUGGESTION RE PRESIDENTIAL OR OTHER HIGH LEVEL CALL FOR PUBLIC HELP AND COOPERATION, FONMIN SAID THAT THIS WAS NOW GOING FORWARD ("EN MARCH").

5. WHEN PIRAN MENTIONED THAT NEW NOTE FROM MLN NOW CONTAINED DEADLINE, EMBOFF ASKED HIM HOW HE VIEWED THE SPANISH PHRASE "HAREMOS JUSTICIA", WITH REGARD TO MLN INTENTIONS RE MITRIONE. PEIRANO SAID IT WAS HIS PERSONAL RPT PERSONAL OPINION THAT THIS DID NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE THAT MLN PLANNED TO KILL HOSTAGES. IF THEY HAD MEANT TO USE THREAT OF MURDER TO PUT PRESSURE ON GOU, PEIRANO BELIEVED THAT TERRORISTS WOULD HAVE SAID SO CLEARLY AND DIRECTLY. PEIRANO NOTED THAT THERE WERE "SOME RUMORS" THAT KIDNAPPED BRAZILIAN CONSUL IS ACTUALLY AGENT OF BRAZILIAN INTELLIGENCE AND THAT PERHAPS MLN INTERROGATION AIMED AT SECURING INFORMATION ON GOMIDES' ACTIVITIES. PURPOSE OF THIS WOULD BE EVENTUALLY TO "PROCESS" CONSUL IN THE

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MANNER OF JUDGE PEREIRA AND MONTEVIDEO BANKER PELLIGRINI, LOOKING TOWARD PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION WHICH WOULD EMBARRASS GOB. HE DID NOT MENTION MITRIONE IN THIS CONNECTION.

6. EMBOFF TOLD FONMINISTER THAT UPON FURTHER REFLECTION, I HAD DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO PERMIT US PRESS TO PHOTOGRAPH AND BRIEFLY INTERVIEW JONES PRIOR TO DEPARTURE TODAY BECAUSE OF SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. PERIANO SAID HE HAD THOUGHT OVER MATTER SINCE OUR LAST CONVERSATION AND HAD COME TO SAME CONCLUSION. EMBOFF TOLD FINMIN I STILL PLANNING TO MAKE USIS TELEVISION AND RADIO TAPE FOR USE AFTER JONES DEPARTURE AND FONMINISTER SAID THIS WOULD CAUSE GOU NO RPT NO PROBLEM WHATEVER.

7. UNRELATED TO ABOVE CONVERSATION BUT AS POINT OF INTEREST, EMBASSY HAS CONFIDENTIALLY RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT'S OFFICE RESULT OF SPECIAL GALLOP POLL ON CURRENT KIDNAPPING SITUATION. 33 PERCENT CONSIDER KIDNAPPING AN ACT OF VANDALISM. 35 PERCENT BELIEVE IT IS A LEGITIMATE REVOLUTIONARY METHOD. 32 PERCENT DID NOT REPLY. 37 PERCENT BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RANSOM IMPRISONED TERRORISTSN 37 PERCENT BELIEVED GOU SHOULD NOT, 26 PERCENT DID NOT REPLY. FINALLY, 60 PERCENT BELIEVED THAT IF KIDNAPPED VICTIMS NOT RANSOMED, TERRORISTS WOULD NEVERTHELESS RETURN THEM SAFE AND SOUND, 30 PERCENT BELIEVED VICTIMS WOULD NOT BE RETURNED, 10 PERCENT DID NOT REPLY.
ADAIR

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